

Notes from the Music Department

Our Music Meditation today was composed the early 1990's by New Englander Carolyn McDade, the woman who gave the gift of "Spirit of Life" to the whole world. Three decades later, the lyrics to "**We Shall Release a New Justice**" continue to resonate and call us to a life of action. In lieu of my usual program notes, I am going to share McDade's forward to her "Songs for Congregational Singing." In her words:

May we be fully present in our singing
and through song experience a deeper communion
with ourselves, one another, and the wondrous creation
of which we are intimately a part

...that we may see, name, analyze, and transform
the unjust structures - social, political, economic, ecclesiastic -
which mount such massive human and planetary suffering
in our time

...that we may create a web of human relationships -
compassionate, limber, mutual, just, and unadorned -

...that, after us, our children
and our children's children
and the young of all life's generations
shall flourish together
to sing
their songs
of faith, joy, and praise

We Shall Release a New Justice

Words and Music by Carolyn McDade

High on the ledge of the mountain, limber and tall in the valley below,
Firm by the rivers on-flowing, faithful the trees ever stand.
We, we shall release, we shall release a justice rooted and deep,
A tree spreading branches green and strong o'er all the earth, o'er all the earth.

Born through the cycle of seasons, each generation from those gone before,

Deep in awakéning seedlings, the essence, the soul of the tree.
We, we shall release, we shall release a justice rooted and deep,
A tree spreading branches green and strong o'er all the earth, o'er all the earth.

We, with the trees evergreening, holding each child, a leaf to the sun,
Praising within each emerging, our essence, our soul is one.
We, we shall release, we shall release a justice rooted and deep,
A tree spreading branches green and strong o'er all the earth, o'er all the earth.